

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

82-13115/4

22 NOV 1982

Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Prior to the recess for congressional elections the Senate completed action on S. 2552, which provides federal criminal penalties for violent attacks on United States intelligence personnel performing their official duties, aliens admitted to permanent residence in the United States under the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 for their special contribution to the U.S. intelligence effort, and foreign visitors temporarily in the United States under Intelligence Community auspices in furtherance of U.S. intelligence objectives. The legislation is currently pending in your Committee.

You may recall from the first session of this Congress that identical legislation was contained in S. 1127, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1982, but was deleted in conference at the request of the House conferees to permit the Committee on the Judiciary to give greater consideration to the intelligence personnel protection legislation, which Chairman Edward P. Boland of the Select Committee on Intelligence subsequently introduced as H.R. 4940, the House companion to S. 2552.

The federal government has a compelling interest in the physical safety of those upon whom it must rely to perform the uniquely federal function of gathering and processing intelligence on the activities, capabilities and intentions of foreign powers. Enactment of S. 2552 will enable the federal government to use its existing law enforcement resources to detect and prevent, or to investigate and prosecute, violent crimes which interfere with the mission of the Intelligence Community. We are very grateful that the Subcommittee on Crime has scheduled a hearing on this measure for 1 December. I urge the Committee on the Judiciary to handle S. 2552 expeditiously, to permit final enactment of this important legislation in the time which remains in this Congress.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey